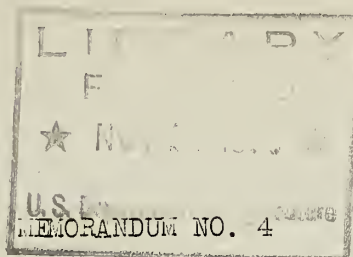


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.942
1.2.5.1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



October 9, 1939.

SCALE MEMORANDUM NO. 4

For the information of scale agencies and others concerned in the testing of scales at stockyards posted under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Scales used for weighing livestock and operated under the act are to be adjusted and maintained accurate to the tolerances set forth herein. It should be clearly understood that these tolerances are the maximum allowable errors.

Tolerances for scales with full-capacity beams: Scales provided with self-contained or full-capacity beams, in which loose counterpoise weights are not employed in determining the weights, shall be adjusted and maintained so that the maximum errors present in the weights indicated by the beam, shall not exceed a tolerance of plus or minus one and one-half pounds per 1,000 pounds of standardized applied test load.

Tolerances for beams with loose counterpoise weights: Scales equipped with beams provided with loose counterpoise weights shall have the ratio at the tip knife-edge, supporting the loose counterpoise weights, adjusted and maintained accurately to within a maximum allowable error, or tolerance on the ratio, not to exceed plus or minus three-fourths pound per 1,000 pounds of applied test load.

The tolerances for full-capacity beams shall apply to such proportions of beams with loose counterpoise weights as are not otherwise provided for.

Tolerances for fractional poises: The scales shall be adjusted and maintained so that the maximum allowable errors on the fractional poises shall not exceed the tolerances of the following table:

Table No. 1

Indication of fractional poises	Tolerances	
	Scale capacity 10,000 lbs. or less	Scale capacity above 10,000 lbs.
0-100 lb.	± 1.0 lb.	+2.0 lb.
101-1,000 lb.	± 2.0 lb.	+2.0 lb.

Tolerances for counterpoise weights: For the loose counterpoise weights of scales the tolerances to be allowed in excess or deficiency shall not be greater than those given in the following table: Provided,

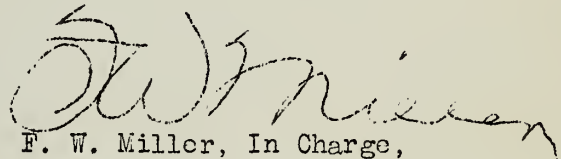
however, that the manufacturers' tolerances or the tolerances to be allowed on new weights shall not be greater than one-half of the values given:

Table No. 2

Tolerances for counterpoise weights when used on livestock scales *

<u>Weight Pounds</u>	<u>Tolerance Grains</u>	<u>Weight Ounces</u>	<u>Tolerance Grains</u>
10	20.0	10	4.0
8	16.0	8	3.0
5	13.0	5	2.0
4	12.0	4	2.0
3	10.0	2	1.0
2	8.0	1	1.0
1	5.0		

* These tolerances correspond to those adopted by the National Conference on Weights and Measures, and appear on page 103 of National Bureau of Standards Handbook H22 1937.



F. W. Miller, In Charge,
Administration of Packers and Stockyards Act.

